Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The citizens of South Dakota stand firmly committed to quality after school programs and opportunities; and,

Whereas, After school programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills; and provide support for working families by making sure their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends; and,

Whereas, After school programs build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults. The after school program engages families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children; and,

Whereas, South Dakota has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality after school programs are key to helping our children become successful adults; and,

Whereas, On October 21, *Lights On Afterschool,* a national celebration of after school programs, will promote the critical importance of quality after school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 21, 2010, as

LIGHTS ON AFTER SCHOOL DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge parents, elected officials, and community members to recognize the importance of after school programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-ninth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State